



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 9, 1998

S. 419 **Birth Defects Prevention Act of 1997**

As passed by the Senate on June 12, 1997

SUMMARY

S. 419 would reauthorize and amend Section 317C of the Public Health Service Act. This section of the Act established a program within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to encourage states to collect, analyze, and disseminate epidemiological data on birth defects.

S. 419 would authorize appropriations of \$30 million for fiscal year 1998, \$40 million for fiscal year 1999, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2000 and 2001. The legislation would require research on birth defects to include analysis by gender and by racial and ethnic group. In addition, the increased funding would be used to improve and expand the National Information Clearinghouse on Birth Defects.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that enacting S. 419 would result in additional discretionary spending of about \$140 million over the 1998-2003 period. The legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The legislation also does not contain any intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

ESTIMATED COST THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 419 is shown in the table below. The act does not specify authorization levels for 2000 and 2001. For those years, CBO projects appropriations based on the 1999 authorization, both with and without adjustments for inflation. With the exception of fiscal year 1998, CBO assumes that all amounts authorized in S. 419 would be appropriated by the start of each fiscal year and that outlays would follow the historical

spending patterns for CDC. CBO assumes that any additional appropriation for 1998 would be late in the year and therefore projects that the increase in 1998 outlays would be small.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law						
Budget Authority	12	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	8	7	3	1	0	0
With Adjustment for Inflation						
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	18	40	41	42	0	0
Estimated Outlays	2	23	35	41	28	10
Spending Under S. 419						
Authorization Level	30	40	41	42	0	0
Estimated Outlays	10	30	38	42	28	10
Without Adjustment for Inflation						
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	18	40	40	40	0	0
Estimated Outlays	2	23	35	40	27	10
Spending Under S. 419						
Authorization Level	30	40	40	40	0	0
Estimated Outlays	10	30	38	41	27	10

The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 550 (health).

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 419 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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